

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OECD/CSTP - MEETING OF COMPUTER UTILIZATION

GROUP (CUG), FEBRUARY 19-20, 1976

REF: STATE 038059

1. AFTER RE-ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (SVENONIUS, SWEDEN) AND VICE-CHAIRMEN (BEDFORD, IRELAND; HATTON, CANADA), CUG DISPOSED RAPIDLY OF PANEL REPORTS. THE PANELS ON APPLICATIONS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO (A) URBAN MANAGEMENT AND (B) HEALTH WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS AT END OF YEAR. THE REMAINING TWO, ON (C) PRIVACY, TRANSBORDER DATA FLOW AND (D) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY CONSERVATION, WILL CONTINUE. THE LEVEL OF RESOURCE EFFORT ON (D) WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON THE LEVEL OF THE IEA'S INTEREST IN HAVING THE CUG PURSUE THIS TOPIC.

2. DISCUSSION OF SPT(76)7, REPORT OF CSTP TASK FORCE ON CUG-IPG ACTIVITIES. US TOOK POSITION THAT DISCUSSION COULD ONLY BE INFORMAL, AS SPT(76-7 WAS ADDRESSED TO CSTP AND COUNCIL. US PRIORITIES PER REFTTEL WERE SUBMITTED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE REFERRED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO OVERALL IPG-CUG PROGRAM, NOT JUST TO CUG, AND THAT

LATTER'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST WOULD BE RELEVANT TO PARTICIPATION IN MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM IN MANNER TO BE COORDINATED WITH IPG SUBSEQUENT TO CSTP AND POSSIBLE COUNCIL DISCUSSION. MOREOVER, WITH RESPECT TO THE PORTION OF SPT(76)7 REFERRING TO OPTIONS FOR NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES, FOR CUG AND IPG ACTIVITIES, THE US WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF ARRIVING AT AN OFFICIAL POSITION, WHICH WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE CSTP DURING THE LATTER'S FEBRUARY 19-20 MEETING.

3. THE US POSITION ON THIS MATTER WAS SUPPORTED EXPLICITLY BY SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS, AS WAS A PROPOSAL THAT THE BUREAU OF THE CUG, ENLARGED AS APPROPRIATE, MEET AS SOON AS CONVENIENT WITH ITS IPG COUNTERPART TO DISCUSS COORDINATION OF HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS. AS IT TURNED OUT, THE CUG CONSENSUS ON THE HIGH PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM TERM PROGRAM COINCIDED WITH THE US SELECTION FROM THE LIST IN ANNEX I TO SPT(76)7, I.E. NO. 1 TRANSBORDER DATA FLOWS. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION; NO. 8 MACRO-ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES. THE FIRST OF THESE IS ALREADY UNDER WAY IN THE CUG, BUT THE IPG INTERESTS ARE CONSIDERABLE. THE IPG, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS TAKEN A LEAD ON THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, BUT HERE AGAIN AN EFFORT OF MEANING TO MEMBER-COUNTRIES REQUIRES INPUT BY THE CUG, WITH RESPECT TO BOTH COMPUTERS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. THE RATIONALE FOR JOINT BUREAU MEETING, TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF JOINTLY CONCEIVED PROGRAMS IS THUS STRONG, WITHOUT PREEMPTING ANY FUTURE REORGANIZATION THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL.
TURNER

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